

FATALITY



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, III CORPS AND FORT HOOD
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AFZF-GA-SAFE

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

04 OCT 2005

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year (FY) 06 Begins With Tragedy -- Fatality Memo 06-01

1. The first day of FY06 was marred by a tragic motorcycle accident that took the life of a III Corps Soldier. The Specialist operating the motorcycle attempted to pass slower traffic by exiting the highway onto the frontage road in order to re-enter the highway ahead of the traffic. After hitting the apex of the off ramp, his motorcycle became airborne and landed in the ditch alongside the roadway traveling another 500 feet. The investigating officer estimated the speed to be in excess of 100 miles per hour. Although the Soldier was wearing the required personal protective equipment (PPE), a motorcycle accident at these speeds is almost always catastrophic.
2. In the last five FYs, III Corps has averaged three motorcycle fatalities per year. This latest motorcycle fatality was the second in less than a month. Although most of our personnel operate vehicles responsibly, we still have "gamblers" in our formations. First-line leaders must seek out these undisciplined individuals and attempt to get the message across that aggressive driving kills. Leaders must also reiterate that the PPE for motorcycle riders outlined in AR 385-55, Appendix B is the Army standard and in most cases will save a life.
3. We place a great deal of emphasis on privately owned vehicle (POV) accident prevention for a good reason; POV accidents continue to be the number one killer of our Soldiers outside of combat. Standards must be known and enforced and leaders must guide Soldiers in the right direction. The Combat Readiness Center website <https://crc.army.mil/home/> and the III Corps Safety website at the Fort Hood homepage contain many valuable aids to assist you in your efforts to affect change.
4. We will continue to campaign against this needless loss of life. III Corps cannot afford to lose Soldiers at the rate we did in FY05. Our initiatives must be well planned and targeted. Continued leader involvement will pay large dividends and can reverse this trend.

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS

THOMAS F. METZ
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

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